Once upon a time there was a country mouse and a city mouse.

The two had been acquaintances for many years but had been separated from each other by the many miles between the country and the city.

The country mouse, however, invited the city mouse for a visit for old times' sake. The city mouse caught a ride on the back of a truck transporting grain and soon arrived at the home of his friend, the country mouse.

The country mouse served the city mouse nuts and barley that he had been storing up for quite some time. The country mouse considered the nuts to be his most prized delicacy, but the city mouse scoffed at him. "These nuts and oats are not fit for insects, let alone for us mice. Your life in the country is so dour and staid that I do wonder how you can stand it," said the city mouse. "Come to the city where I live and I will show you a meal fit to serve a king!" The country mouse allowed himself in the end to be persuaded to ride with the city mouse back to the big city, although he did not wish to go. He preferred the simple life in the country.

Soon they reached the big house where the city mouse lived. It was great indeed, with splendid carpets and draperies for the country mouse to explore. Then the city mouse announced that dinner had

been served on the formal dining room table, so the two climbed the chairs and then commenced to feast. The table was laden with sweetmeats, relishes, breads, and pies. The country mouse ate with abandon. Then a growling noise could be heard from the hallway, along with voices.

"Run for your life, country mouse, because the Master and his dogs are coming to dine at this table! We will perish if they find us here," trembled the city mouse. The country mouse ran to the sideboard and crawled into an opening in the side of the wall. There he hid from the beastly dogs, his heart pounding madly. As soon as he thought it was safe, he went in search of the city mouse and found him laughing under some pillows.

The country mouse thanked the city mouse for an exciting evening, but he preferred his simple meals of nuts and barley to the lavish meals that enchanted the city mouse. He liked eating in the peaceful solitude of the country.

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